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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

Report of the Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

1. It cannot be said that 1992 represented the long-awaited turnaround in the world's illicit drug trends; rather, the geographical expansion of illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption continued to outpace the international community's efforts to contain it. And even more foreboding, some of the economic, political and social developments that occurred throughout 1992 have already been recognized as potential harbingers of crisis for countries that have so far been relatively free of drug-related problems.

2. In many newly independent countries the specific institutional and legal framework needed to confront the drug problem has yet to be developed. Such worsening trends, however, are by no means limited to those countries. Indeed, the uncovering of new sources of narcotic raw materials and precursors and essential chemicals, together with the broadening of drug trafficking and money-laundering networks, is taking place on a global scale at a rate that has thus far shown little sign of slowing down.

3. A detailed analysis of the world situation is provided in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for 1992 (E/INCB/1992/1) and in other documents before the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-sixth session. The data confirm that drug-related problems are continuing to worsen, particularly in the developing world. Developments such as the spread of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Latin America, increased heroin abuse in parts of Africa and Asia, and increased cocaine abuse in Latin America and the Caribbean all reflect the globalization of heretofore geographically limited drug problems and their ramifications.

4. Despite this grim scenario, neither can it be said that heartening progress was absent in 1992. As indicated in the sections that follow, 1992 provided the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) with an opportunity to not only solidify its strategy and set priorities, but also to carry out the global, regional and national activities that form the basis for its international approach to dealing with the drug problem. While difficulties persist in generating the necessary momentum for such an approach, 1992 revealed a growing awareness that the drug problem can be overcome only through globally and regionally coordinated responses.

5. The present report covers much of what UNDCP accomplished in 1992. In order to streamline the documentation for the Commission, an effort has been made to incorporate a maximum of information on the work of UNDCP into a single report. In section I, the strategy and related priorities of UNDCP are discussed in a subsection entitled "Strategic directions"; in the subsection that follows, entitled "Coordination and harmonization", UNDCP efforts to structure a globally coordinated approach are mentioned. Section II, entitled "Global perspective", sums up the sectoral themes along which UNDCP has structured its global, regional and national activities, some of which are further elaborated in section III, entitled "National, regional and subregional perspective". Section IV, entitled "Evaluation activities", highlights the efforts of UNDCP to improve its performance in the future. Finally, section V, entitled "Public relations", focuses on public information and fund-raising.

I. POLICY FRAMEWORK

A. Strategic directions

6. The year 1992 represented an important phase for UNDCP. Although many of its activities were carried over from before, it was the first full year in which UNDCP, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/179, could elaborate and refine its strategic approach. In April 1992, during the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, UNDCP delineated its guiding principles; the enhanced role of the Commission in providing policy guidance made its approval of those principles and ensuing strategy all the more significant. Then, in November 1992, the strategy, itself a product of constructive dialogue with Member States, was well received by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

7. The future directions of UNDCP at the global, regional and national levels can now be portrayed in the form of a three-tiered pyramid. National programmes, especially under the master-plan approach, are represented as the base of the pyramid because they form an important foundation on which UNDCP shapes its priorities. But, given the nature of evolving trends, regional and subregional approaches form a key element that will ultimately decide the international community's success in its efforts against drug abuse; thus, regional and subregional priorities are represented as the second layer of the pyramid. Global priorities are represented as the uppermost layer of the pyramid, as UNDCP maintains an overview of the drug phenomenon, identifies new trends, proposes creative solutions, and acts as a catalyst for action involving governmental, non-governmental, regional and global institutions. Global priorities for UNDCP include carrying out its role as coordinator of United Nations drug-related activities, as well as encouraging other parties, especially international financial institutions and other multilateral entities, to reflect the "drug dimension" in their own policies and programmes.

8. UNDCP strategies at the global, regional and national levels are clearly interlinked. For example, the role of UNDCP in gathering, analysing and disseminating information on a global scale should be seen as one way to facilitate effective drug control activity at the national and regional levels. UNDCP also promotes adherence to the international drug control treaties and the inclusion of their provisions in national legislation. Generating appropriate responses to problems such as money-laundering and developing a strengthened system of control over precursors and essential chemicals are other priorities at the global level.

9. At the regional level, UNDCP is uniquely placed to facilitate intercountry cooperation in the development of regional and subregional drug control strategies. In 1992, UNDCP carried out that function in critical areas of the world, with encouraging results. Many of those results are discussed in further detail in the present report.

10. At the national level, UNDCP is assisting Governments in developing master plans. When adopted by a Government, the master plan authoritatively summarizes national policies and defines priorities while it also allocates responsibility for drug control efforts. By thus facilitating coordination between the Government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and society at large, it also provides a frame of reference for bilateral and multilateral assistance.

11. Governments are responding favourably to UNDCP initiatives to promote the adoption of drug control master plans. UNDCP is currently assisting 12 countries in Africa, 5 in Asia, 6 in the Caribbean and 11 in Latin America in elaborating such master plans. Despite some progress, there is a clear need to increase the number of countries, particularly in Europe, that have developed and adopted master plans.

12. Each level of the strategic pyramid reflects the UNDCP objective of restoring the sectoral balance between supply reduction and demand reduction approaches, a balance that ultimately depends on the prevailing circumstances in a given country or region. Accordingly, UNDCP is paying close attention to effective demand reduction programmes in many countries, especially in those where populations are most vulnerable to the lure of drug abuse. It is emphasizing cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations in developing prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.

13. With regard to supply reduction, UNDCP will continue to focus on alternative rural development. Activities in this area, however, should hinge on the willingness of Governments and multilateral institutions to take over the reins of rural development as UNDCP focuses on specific drug-related project objectives. UNDCP will concentrate on "pump-priming" - providing assistance and expertise for projects that should be pursued and expanded by the competent partners most qualified to do so.

14. In order to deal with illicit drug trafficking, UNDCP intends to give priority to institution-building. In this light, UNDCP aims to strengthen governmental law enforcement structures, primarily through the provision of training and advisory services - a strategy that should be implemented in unison with adequate logistical support from the donor community.

15. Coherent, integrated approaches and methodologies are indispensable to UNDCP at all levels of its activity. Local, national and international institutions cannot expect to succeed without integrating their actions with those of society at large. UNDCP, for its part, will continue to move away from isolated projects towards comprehensive programme approaches for technical assistance, in tandem with other relevant United Nations entities.

16. To allow it to implement, at the operational level, the strategic approach outlined above, UNDCP is redefining the role and strengthening the capacities of its network of field offices. This initiative is being undertaken within the conceptual framework of the unified United Nations field representation advocated by the Secretary-General. Field offices are instrumental in realizing UNDCP objectives under the programme and master-plan approaches. Hence, the scope and coverage of field offices are being enlarged to the point where the offices themselves become microcosms of all the spheres of interest of UNDCP, in particular, the development and monitoring of subregional cooperation. The recently established UNDCP Regional Centre at Bangkok, with its specialized expertise in demand reduction and law enforcement, is giving substantial impetus to UNDCP efforts in Asia. UNDCP currently has six field offices in Asia, five in Latin America, four in Africa and one in the Caribbean, all of which must be recognized as fundamental to its drug control efforts.

B. Coordination and harmonization

1. Within the United Nations system

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/179, assigned UNDCP the instrumental, yet formidable, task of coordinating and providing leadership for all drug control activities of the United Nations system. Such a central role is expected to engender a rational division of labour in the international community's pursuance of common objectives related to drug control.

18. In this context, UNDCP has intensified its efforts to develop effective coordination and cooperation arrangements not only with other United Nations entities, but with those outside the United Nations system as well. Thus far, UNDCP has emphasized coordination with the main development assistance organizations and regional and international financial institutions.

19. In view of their established competence at the macro-economic level, as well as their critical mass of resources, those organizations have vast potential to enmesh drug control objectives into the overall development framework, thereby ensuring the necessarily multidimensional response to the drug problem. Although the prospects for tapping such potential are encouraging, attaining their commitment requires that Member States consistently stress, to the respective governing bodies, the need to pool ongoing efforts and work together.

20. In 1992, UNDCP began to realize its coordination objectives in line with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/179. Although UNDCP may still be at a relatively early stage in generating the necessary momentum for a globally coordinated drug effort, progress has already been achieved at both the policy and operational levels.

(a) At the policy level

21. At the policy level, an important mechanism for drug control coordination within the United Nations system is embodied in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), chaired by the Secretary-General. Since 1991, the Executive Director of UNDCP has fully participated in its work. In 1992, ACC initiated a process to eventually streamline its machinery. Its meetings have thus far represented a promising opportunity to promote a United Nations system-wide response to the drug problem. On drug control issues, ACC works through the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.

22. While ACC provides an appropriate platform from which the United Nations system can launch a more coordinated drug control effort, this effort must be shaped according to a well-crafted plan that takes full account of the resources and the relative strengths of United Nations entities. An important input to that plan is undoubtedly the revised text of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (see E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1), which outlines the various United Nations drug control mandates, together with the activities of participating United Nations entities. In addition to serving as a reference manual of mandates, the System-Wide Action Plan provides a list of ongoing and future drug control projects within the United Nations system and the amount of resources required for their implementation. It should clarify which initiatives are under way, as well as which could be implemented by the relevant United Nations bodies, if adequate resources were to be made available.

23. The Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control to be held in April 1993 will examine inter alia the work to be carried out pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/100, in which the General Assembly outlined a new action-oriented approach for the System-Wide Action Plan, as well as new reporting requirements to ACC and the policy-making organs of the United Nations.

24. As a result of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting held in September 1992, UNDCP has taken the lead in coordinating the efforts of relevant organizations in developing single position papers on drug control for each of the following important United Nations forums to be held in 1995: the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and the World Summit on Social Development. The Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting also reviewed practical cooperation issues, in particular, ways and means of stimulating inter-agency cooperation at the operational level, the desirability of concluding inter-agency cooperation agreements and incorporating drug control policy statements into the policy manuals of organizations of the United Nations system.

25. Complementing the ongoing initiatives for coordination is the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), which is made up of representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). JCGP set up a Task Force on Drugs. The first meeting of the Task Force was held in March 1992, with UNDCP playing an active role. The Task Force identified four countries with significant drug problems for which the JCGP agencies could develop collaborative activities.

26. One of the specific objectives of UNDCP with regard to cooperation with international financial institutions is for drug-related issues to be thoroughly considered and, when relevant, integrated into lending policies and programming matrices.

27. The World Bank has expressed a growing interest in working with United Nations entities such as UNDCP. It agreed to participate in the identification of economists for UNDCP-sponsored assessments of the economic and social consequences of drug abuse. It now actively participates in inter-agency meetings and has incorporated drug-related considerations in reports on Bolivia 1/, 2/ and Peru. 3/

28. In view of their differing levels of available resources, UNDCP and the regional banks each have comparative advantages that should enable their working relationship to produce maximum results. Precisely because of their regional specificity, funding capacities, and influence at the policy-making level, the regional banks can play an integral part in intensifying and expanding the impact and developmental scope of UNDCP activities.

29. The working relationship established by UNDCP with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) can be seen as a model for cooperation. The Bolivian Government, UNDCP and IDB have made plans for a joint programme in the Chapare region of Bolivia. UNDCP participated in an IDB "analysis mission" to that country between 30 November and 11 December 1992 to discuss with Bolivian authorities the final version of a programme document on the assistance package. UNDCP, together with IDB, will undertake further joint missions in the region to identify, prepare, monitor and evaluate projects and programmes. UNDCP plans to pursue similar working arrangements with other regional banks.

30. UNDCP has sought to enhance its ties with other United Nations entities as well. New or revised agreements are being or will be negotiated with UNDP, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and IFAD. These working agreements cover priority areas of cooperation as well as technical and administrative service arrangements in support of UNDCP activities.

(b) At the operational level

31. UNDCP has made great efforts to coordinate activities at the operational level, as well as at the policy level. Its dialogue with ILO and WHO, in particular, has led to the establishment of a constructive working relationship with those specialized agencies, which, in turn, has resulted in a tripartite arrangement for a multi-year programme on drug abuse prevention in the workplace.

32. In 1992, UNDCP also reinforced its relationship with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, in pursuance of the objectives set forth in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 1 (XXXV) and 4 (XXXV). That partnership was enhanced by a joint fact-finding and advisory mission to Albania, the coordination of training plans, and a series of informal meetings between senior staff of the Branch and UNDCP. Those initiatives will be sustained and should lead to other joint activities in areas where the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have shared interests.

33. One such area of mutual concern focuses on the financial assets generated by illicit drug production and traffic. Specialists of the Branch and UNDCP have established contact with a view to jointly addressing this issue. Both entities are finalizing plans for collaboration, thereby opening new opportunities for coordination and cooperation as requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 1 (XXXV).

34. With regard to support for alternative development programmes, FAO has expressed its willingness to cooperate with UNDCP in upstream activities, including feasibility studies, needs assessment and programme design and implementation. FAO has also offered its expertise in remote sensing techniques.

35. In 1992, the UNDCP priority objective of forging operational alliances with other relevant United Nations entities led to innovative initiatives such as the convening of technical consultations aimed at nurturing dialogue among the donor community, international agencies and Governments with a view to addressing drug problems in a particular country or region. Two such technical consultations were organized in 1992. As follow-up to the one on the drug problems in south-west Asia, UNDCP has drawn up a comprehensive programme package covering participation in the UNDP-led reconstruction planning exercise for Afghanistan, joint training of law enforcement personnel of the countries in the region, and joint assessment and monitoring of illicit crop cultivation. As follow-up to the one on the drug problem in Lebanon, an integrated area development project has been formulated and matching contributions expected from important partners such as UNICEF, FAO and UNDP.

36. An important task currently before UNDCP is to promote the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, with the ultimate goal of assisting in the

worldwide implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (General Assemby resolution S-17/2) and related mandates. Special events were organized by UNDCP in 1992 within the framework of the Decade, including a joint UNDCP/WHO seminar on the craving mechanism, held at Vienna from 28 to 30 January 1992, and a seminar on the socio-economic and political impact of production, trade and use of illicit narcotic drugs, held at Vienna from 26 to 28 August 1992 in collaboration with the United Nations University and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

2. Outside the United Nations system

37. Over the past year, UNDCP has also forged closer ties with the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol). Collaborative work with those organizations, discussed in further detail in paragraphs 69-75, below, has resulted in a more structured approach in regional meetings, joint training activities, technical cooperation and the sharing of computer data. The establishment of regional intelligence liaison offices is being discussed with CCC.

38. UNDCP coordination with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) covers areas such as information and data (common standards, links), demand reduction (joint project planning) and training curricula. Support was also provided to the South American Agreement on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances for legal and prevention training activities at the regional level.

39. Important new collaborative ventures were undertaken with other external partners including the Colombo Plan Bureau, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Forum. A regional legal workshop was organized jointly by UNDCP, the Colombo Plan Bureau and the Commonwealth Secretariat to help countries implement the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2). Another UNDCP joint venture with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Forum should lead to legislative drafting services for a number of Pacific island States in 1993.

(a) Commission of the European Communities

40. In 1992, a new cooperation agreement was negotiated between UNDCP and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). The agreement, finalized by an exchange of letters, acknowledges the coordinating role of UNDCP in drug matters within the United Nations system and provides for a regular exchange of documents and information in the technical, legal and statistical areas. At the field level, coordinating arrangements will be established between UNDCP field offices and CEC delegations in each country.

41. UNDCP and CEC will also implement joint programmes and projects, particularly in the fields of prevention, demand reduction, and alternative development in illicit drug-producing areas, through which both parties expect to maintain a close working relationship.

(b) Non-governmental organizations and the private sector

42. The pyramidal structure of UNDCP priorities, described in paragraphs 6-16 above, emphasizes the interdependence of the global, regional and national

objectives of UNDCP. Indeed, global success in overcoming drug-related problems is largely a reflection of the success of individual Governments at the national level. Similarly, without a cohesive and coordinated approach at the regional level, effective national programmes can be easily circumvented by drug traffickers, thereby creating a weak foundation for collective drug control. But the pyramid analogy, by highlighting the interaction of global, regional and national institutions, risks overshadowing the central role played by society at large, which, in many respects, represents both the source of and the solution to the drug problem.

43. In other words, beyond the institutional arrangements that exist within the international community, it is at the grass-roots level that the drug issue must be approached. Consequently, in view of their instrumental role in mobilizing society, non-governmental organizations must increasingly become part of the vanguard in translating at times lofty institutional aspirations into practical action. By the same token, the private sector should also become involved in drug control.

44. UNDCP is working closely with non-governmental organizations and intends to expand its working relationship with them. There are several examples of constructive cooperation between UNDCP and non-governmental organizations, and there is good reason to expect further progress in that direction in the future. In line with the policy orientation presented by the Executive Director to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, UNDCP has worked more closely with the New York NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse and the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs to establish a new partnership based on common interests. In addition, various non-governmental organizations, such as the Centro Italiano di Solidarietá, the Colombian Red Cross, Environment and Development, the Gilead Church, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, Norwegian Church Aid and the International Rescue Committee, have continued to be actively involved in the execution of UNDCP technical cooperation projects.

45. Preparations are under way for the 1994 World Conference on the Role of NGOs in Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in Italy in October 1994. The Conference and its preparations comprise one of the major UNDCP initiatives with regard to non-governmental organizations. As part of the activities leading up to the Conference, three regional symposiums for non-governmental organizations are being planned in Africa, Asia and Latin America. To widen the scope of contacts with non-governmental organizations, particularly those involved in development activities, UNDCP has urged the International Council of Voluntary Agencies to include drugs on its agenda of global issues and to join UNDCP, the New York NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and Substances and the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs in organizing the Conference.

46. In addition, in close cooperation with one Government, UNDCP is taking the lead in launching an International Private Sector Conference on Drug Abuse. The conference, which will take place in October 1993, will allow participants to discuss the role of business in international anti-drug efforts. Preparations for the Conference started in late 1992 with a view to selecting a number of private firms that would be involved in the planning phase. The agenda includes a range of drug-related issues focusing not only on the effects of substance abuse on business but also on ways in which corporate policy might target the drug problem.

II. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

47. Much of the work of UNDCP on substantive issues is based on activities of a global nature which, rather than being limited to a specific country or region, affect the world community as a whole. Some of the themes that strongly influence the global thrust of UNDCP activities merit special mention.

A. Source of expertise

48. The progress made by UNDCP in becoming a global centre of expertise in drug control should greatly enhance international efforts to combat drug-related problems. That aspect of the evolution of UNDCP, however, entails optimizing in-house expertise, as well as mobilizing that of Governments, other United Nations entities, other international organizations, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector.

49. With such a network of expertise, UNDCP will be better able to provide the technical support that plays such a crucial role in its activities. Developing such a global perspective would help UNDCP to have at its disposal the most appropriate expertise to address the needs and interests of Governments and other parties, while reinforcing its role as a reference centre in drug control for the world community. To that end, UNDCP has reassigned and increased its personnel resources in order to upgrade the core of specialists in priority areas.

50. For example, in 1992, a full-time specialist in the field of money-laundering joined UNDCP; he has since drawn up a multi-year plan for developing the relevant technical cooperation activities. A specialist in the field of precursors and essential chemicals also joined UNDCP in 1992 and is working with the INCB secretariat.

51. With a view to developing a global network of experts, in mid-1992, UNDCP began working intensively on a consolidated, computerized roster of experts. The roster should lead to on-line, multi-referenced access to as many as 1,500 names in 1993.

B. Legal assistance and treaty adherence

52. Efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the international drug control treaties represent one of the primary functions of UNDCP in the field of legal assistance. In accordance with Commission resolution 4 (XXXV), the UNDCP programme of legal assistance rapidly progressed in 1992. It consists of a range of services available to States, including the following: (a) the provision of legal advice, often through assessment and planning missions; (b) the elaboration of legislation and the adoption of final texts; (c) the provision of training and other support in the implementation of the new legislation; and (d) the promotion of mutual assistance and cooperation.

53. In 1992, 17 States became parties to the 1988 Convention, 4 became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, 4/ and 3 became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. 5/ UNDCP began systematically evaluating the implementation of legislation by 22 States parties to those conventions.

54. The programme of workshops is a vital element of the UNDCP legal assistance initiative. The workshops assist States in identifying limitations in their legal capacity to fully implement the conventions, as well as the measures needed to overcome those limitations. Legal workshops will be held in 1993 at the subregional level for 11 States in central Africa. In western Africa, UNDCP organized two legal workshops: one for specialists from nine French-speaking countries, held at Abidjan in January 1993, and the other for specialists from two Portuguese-speaking countries, held at Lisbon in October 1992. The legal workshop programme also continued in Asia: one workshop was held in collaboration with the Colombo Plan and the Commonwealth Secretariat at Bangkok in October 1992; it brought together senior judges, prosecutors and investigators from 23 countries. In the Caribbean, a workshop organized in collaboration with the French Government was held at Fort de France, Martinique, in 1992; it brought together prosecutors from 10 countries and territories. More than 50 States have participated in UNDCP workshops since the legal assistance programme was initiated in 1991.

55. The legal assistance work of UNDCP has included the preparation of model legislation for different legal systems. Texts for the Romano-German legal system have been completed and translated into five languages, and work is under way on texts for the common law system. Texts for the Islamic law system will be dealt with in 1993.

C. Reduction of illicit drug demand

56. Particular attention has turned to work in the field of demand reduction, both at UNDCP and throughout the United Nations system. This focus follows largely from recommendations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as from a recognition of the optimal balance for successful drug control efforts. In late 1992, the UNDCP Policy Planning Committee - an in-house body that advises the Executive Director on policy-related issues - endorsed what now serves as the basic guidelines for UNDCP activities in demand reduction.

57. Accurate data are essential to success in the field of demand reduction. For that reason, UNDCP is fine-tuning its data collection by, inter alia, further developing the International Drug Abuse Assessment System (IDAAS). An expert group that met at Vienna in October 1992 recommended the intensification of work related to IDAAS, and a long-term programme is being prepared in order to increase both the quantity and the quality of information entering the IDAAS data bank. And yet, the task continues to be extremely difficult, partly because of definitional inconsistencies and insufficient data from countries.

58. In 1992, encouraging progress was made in developing and launching the Rapid Abuse Assessment System, designed in close cooperation with WHO and endorsed by the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse. The System is intended to provide developing countries with a reasonably inexpensive tool to determine the nature and extent of their drug abuse problems. To do that, it relies on a group of direct and indirect indicators that have been judged to be more useful than the traditional medical models for epidemiology. The methodology is already being introduced in UNDCP-financed demand reduction initiatives planned for Lebanon and Viet Nam, as well as the central African subregion.

59. Another area in which UNDCP has focused on demand reduction is in the development of a network of trained national officials who could act as

trainers in their own countries to improve drug abuse reporting to the United Nations. Four professionals from Africa received intensive training at Vienna in mid-1992, and a module on the reporting system has been introduced into the ongoing series of demand reduction training courses organized in Africa by the International Council of Alcohol and Addictions. Several meetings were held with specialists from CICAD/OAS to ensure compatibility with similar work being undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean in both basic assessment and reporting.

60. UNDCP has also focused on the link between the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and drug abuse. A technical paper prepared by UNDCP on that subject was considered at a one-day meeting of interested United Nations entities following the September 1992 Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting. UNDCP, together with WHO and local organizations, has developed field activities focusing on drug abuse and HIV in south-east Asia.

61. Direct linkages with other social development issues are particularly relevant in the field of demand reduction. For example, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, UNDCP and WHO have begun collaborating on a joint technical paper on women and drugs.

62. Demand reduction, as viewed by UNDCP, is best dealt with through partnership with other organizations concerned with the subject. Noteworthy in this regard was a decision to follow an approach in tandem with WHO. UNDCP and WHO have agreed that their technical staff should meet on an annual basis to jointly review progress and coordinate planning and execution. The first meeting took place in May 1992. The initial goal is to develop a pipeline of well-formulated activities based on shared objectives rather than an annual package of funding for scattered activities. A similar approach will be introduced in meetings with other United Nations entities, beginning with ILO in 1993.

63. UNDCP has developed and begun implementing a programme for demand reduction technical consultations at the regional and subregional levels. The launching of such consultations, which are intended to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries with similar drug abuse problems, was urged by a number of Governments during the thirty-fifth session of the Commission and in subsidiary body meetings. The first such consultation will take place in Africa. Others are planned for Latin America and Asia. In organizing the consultations, already existing initiatives, such as those of the Asian NGO group, will be taken into consideration.

D. Laboratory and research

64. In 1992, the Laboratory of UNDCP strengthened its collaboration with national laboratories. The objectives of such collaboration were (a) to expand programmes in research, training, and evaluation of testing methodologies; (b) to promote, elaborate and initiate an international quality assurance programme; and (c) to establish international guidelines for quality laboratory practices.

65. The Laboratory also promoted coordination and collaboration at the subregional, regional and global levels. A Consultative Meeting of the Chiefs of National Narcotics Laboratories in West Africa was organized at Lomé in October 1992, while a Consultative Meeting on Quality Assurance and Good Laboratory Practices was held at Glasgow in November 1992.

66. Among the ongoing programmes of the Laboratory is the training of scientists in illicit traffic casework and body-fluid testing. Efforts to decentralize the training have continued. By the end of 1992, there were 3 regional training centres (at Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur and Port of Spain) and 12 collaborating institutions in seven countries.

67. The technical assistance work of the Laboratory included the development of additional working tools, notably a manual containing guidelines on the role of forensic chemists in clandestine laboratory investigations and the control of precursors and essential chemicals, a new edition of the Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control 7/ and manuals on testing methods. The Laboratory also continued to produce and distribute drug-testing kits (to date, 4,620 have been distributed to 115 countries) and to develop and test a kit for testing precursors. In collaboration with INCB and WHO, the Laboratory has established and distributed data sheets on scheduled precursors to facilitate implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

68. In November 1992, the Laboratory convened a Consultative Meeting on Chemical Characterization/Profiling of Natural, Semi-Synthetic and Synthetic Drugs at Vienna; then, in December 1992, the Consultative Panel on Environmentally Safe Methods for the Eradication of Narcotic Plants was convened at Vienna.

E. Illicit drug traffic

69. UNDCP has carried out specific obligations placed on it by the international drug control treaties, such as the monitoring of illicit drug traffic worldwide and the provision of advice and support to States in law enforcement and investigative techniques, especially techniques prescribed in the 1988 Convention and underlined in the Global Programme of Action.

70. Accurate information regarding all aspects of the drug situation at the national, regional and subregional levels is essential to the success of UNDCP activities. That is especially the case when dealing with illicit drug trafficking.

71. In 1992, a low-cost initiative permitted UNDCP, CCC and ICPO/Interpol to develop an on-line computer link to provide access to their illicit traffic data. This has been accomplished without prompting any significant change in their individual data systems. The data transferral system was functioning by the end of 1992.

72. As mentioned in paragraph 37 above, the work of UNDCP with CCC and ICPO/Interpol has resulted in improved coordination of regional meetings. In 1992, ICPO/Interpol took on a more active role in the UNDCP-organized meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA). It organized a workshop on financial crime at the Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 18 to 22 May 1992. At the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok from 23 to 27 November 1992 and at the Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Acapulco, Mexico, from 28 September to 2 October 1992, ICPO/Interpol provided principal resource persons for certain workshops. CCC took on a similar role in providing resource persons for the HONLEA meetings. The Nineteenth ICPO/Interpol European meeting of heads of national drugs services will be incorporated into the Second Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, to be held at Vienna, from 22 to 26 February 1993.

73. UNDCP held regular consultations at various levels with both CCC and ICPO/Interpol in 1992. Mutual participation in technical meetings is now well-established. In 1992, UNDCP and CCC agreed to collaborate in technical areas, primarily in training and in improving the transmission of case information. As of 1993, CCC is expected to take on the role of a full executing agency for UNDCP projects, in contrast to earlier ad hoc grant arrangements.

74. In 1992, through an exchange of letters, UNDCP and the Financial Action Task Force established by the heads of State of Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations and the President of CEC at the fifteenth annual economic summit, held in Paris in July 1989, agreed on the formal basis for future work together. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXV), UNDCP agreed to carry out technical work in the field of money-laundering and seizure of assets, with particular emphasis on law enforcement. The resulting programme of assistance will include legislative assistance, training and advisory services. UNDCP also financed an executive awareness course for law enforcement officials from eight countries, held at Vancouver, Canada, in October 1992, and an intensive operations-oriented course for law enforcement officers from the same countries, to be held in Malta in March 1993.

75. UNDCP also made progress in the field of control over precursors and essential chemicals. The UNDCP computerized data system for precursors and essential chemicals is being expanded to provide greater support to Member States in their efforts to prevent diversion. The report of INCB on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (E/CN.7/1993/6) contains additional information on that development. The third and final sessions of the working groups on the international databases and on draft guidelines for the prevention of diversion of precursors and essential chemicals took place at Vienna in January 1993. A UNDCP technical cooperation project, to be launched in 1993, has been approved. It will involve activities in Asia aimed at developing effective control structures at the national level; it will also involve subregional workshops to establish cooperation and mechanisms for identifying and interdicting suspicious transactions. Attention is being given to the need in many countries to develop appropriate legislation and regulations in this new field.

F. Control over licit drugs

76. The work of UNDCP with regard to the functioning of the international control system of licit drugs is strongly influenced by the international drug control treaties. The provision of secretariat and advisory services to INCB represents one aspect of the involvement of UNDCP in that area.

77. In its report for 1992 (E/INCB/1992/1), INCB expressed concern over the failure of some Governments, including those representing some major manufacturing and exporting countries, to provide it with statistical data in a timely manner. This could very well jeopardize the international drug control system, which over the last decade has checked the flow of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from licit sources into illicit channels. In some countries, inadequate national control over certain psychotropic substances has already led to worldwide diversion of large quantities of such substances. In the light of that development, UNDCP, through the INCB secretariat, has carried out preparations for a conference to be held at Strasbourg, France, in early March 1993 to strengthen European export controls on psychotropic substances.

78. In addition, a UNDCP project was begun in 1992 to improve the effectiveness of systems to control the import of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in developing countries. A specialist undertook a needs identification exercise, in consultation with the INCB secretariat and with WHO. The second phase of the project, which began in January 1993, involves the design of follow-up measures that should take into account the work and mandates of the INCB secretariat and of WHO programmes in the fields of pharmaceuticals, essential drugs and substance abuse. Existing UNDCP initiatives, such as research into street markets in western Africa and plans to develop computer software for improved national control machinery, will also be taken into account.

79. INCB regional seminars are also assisting national control administrations in drug control within the framework of the international drug control treaties.

G. Economic and developmental issues

80. UNDCP participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992. At the Conference, UNDCP submitted a paper on the linkages between drug issues and environmental concerns, highlighting the cultivation of illicit drug crops and the release into water sources of chemical products from cocaine and heroin processing. In a letter sent to the system coordinator for Agenda 21, UNDCP indicated that it was prepared to support activities related to drug control in the furtherance of Agenda 21, which acts as the guideline for efforts to achieve a global and sustainable balance between development and environmental protection.

81. UNDCP continues to follow the issue of economic implications of drug traffic and abuse. In keeping with the recommendations contained in Commission resolution 2 (XXXV), UNDCP has continued to work towards refining the concept of a "debt-for-alternative-development swap". In July 1992, at the Expert Group Meeting on the Conversion of Official Bilateral Assistance, sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNDCP made a presentation on the concept that was positively received by participants. In addition, expert advice was sought and the matter was taken up in informal consultations during a consultative group meeting for Bolivia that was sponsored by the World Bank and held in Paris from 28 to 30 October 1992. The concept, to be initially implemented on a pilot basis, essentially involves the conversion of bilateral debt into local currency debt, with annual interest payments to be set aside for use in alternative development.

H. Training

82. UNDCP is mandated to develop, coordinate and support the various drug-related training activities, with a view to improving the quality of the training, promoting new training initiatives and generally maximizing the Programme's investment in human resource development.

83. Progress has been made on the regional training strategy that emerged from several of the HONLEA meetings. Under the strategy, regional training centres are to be designated, based on existing training facilities. Thereafter, international training courses co-sponsored by UNDCP are to be developed, based primarily on a train-the-trainers approach. The drug law enforcement training centre of the Egyptian General Directorate of Narcotic Drugs (ANGA) at Cairo, which was launched using that formula in late 1991, hosted a second regional

law enforcement course for the training of personnel from African countries in 1992. Plans are moving forward for the designation of such centres in Côte d'Ivoire and Jamaica and discussions have begun with authorities in Nigeria on a similar endeavour. Authorities from a number of other countries have expressed interest in participating in the regional scheme, which includes the training of laboratory personnel.

84. UNDCP publishes three times annually a law enforcement training calendar intended to encourage coordination of planning among those institutions that provide international training in the field of drug law enforcement.

III. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

85. In recent years, UNDCP has observed that, without regional and/or subregional drug control strategies, national programmes for eliminating illicit cultivation of narcotic drug crops, interdicting drug trafficking and reducing drug abuse cannot have the necessary impact. In view of the "contagious" nature of illicit drug activities, it is essential that national efforts be augmented by regional ones to present illicit drug activities from spreading from one country to another. The need for an intercountry response was recognized in the Global Programme of Action. UNDCP has vigorously endeavoured to realize, in particular, the regional and subregional objectives contained in the Global Programme of Action.

86. Significant progress was achieved in the elaboration and implementation of subregional strategies in several geographical and sectoral areas. Details of the UNDCP initiatives and strategy for each region are provided below, following a brief summary of the outcome of the HONLEA meetings in 1992 and related action.

A. Subsidiary bodies

1. Meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies

87. One key element in any regional drug-control strategy is close cooperation among national drug law enforcement agencies. The regional HONLEA meetings provide one means of generating such cooperation.

88. The Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, formulated recommendations on how to improve the fight against illicit drug trafficking by sea and to counteract drug smuggling by land routes across national frontiers. Discussions on the enhancement of cooperation and coordination between police and customs authorities and on the problem of money-laundering gave rise to specific suggestions for action by national authorities. The Meeting adopted two resolutions: in the first, it requested UNDCP to provide for the inclusion of drug demand reduction workshops in future meetings of HONLEA, Africa; in the second, it recommended that UNDCP should encourage the establishment of more subregional drug law enforcement training centres (see E/CN.7/1993/CRP.3, chapters I and III).

89. At the Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, recommendations were made on various measures that could be taken by national authorities to counteract money-laundering and the illicit movement of precursors and essential chemicals. The Meeting also proposed action to improve the exchange of information at the regional and subregional levels as well as

cooperation to combat drug trafficking, with particular reference to illicit drug trafficking by air (see E/CN.7/1993/CRP.4, chapter V).

90. Recommendations from the Seventeenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, focused on illicit drug trafficking by sea, with emphasis on container cargoes and specific problems of the Pacific island States. The Meeting also dealt with new methods of concealment and operational activities of major drug trafficking groups and the countermeasures and regional law enforcement cooperation needed to fight drug trafficking more effectively (see E/CN.7/1993/CRP.6, chapter IV).

2. Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

91. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East held its twenty-ninth session at Tehran in October 1992. The session was divided into two segments. In the first segment, the Subcommission acted as a preparatory body for a Ministerial-level Conference that was held in the second segment. The Conference adopted the Tehran Declaration, in which the participating States expressed their determination to adopt a comprehensive approach to dealing with the various facets of the drug problem, including illicit cultivation, suppression of drug trafficking, confiscation of drug-related assets, control of precursors and essential chemicals, and drug abuse prevention (see E/CN.7/1993/2, chapter I).

B. Country and intercountry programmes

1. Africa

(a) Major features and trends in drug abuse

92. Africa is an important source of cannabis, including its derivatives, and a major supplier of cannabis to illicit markets worldwide. Further compounding the drug-related problems in Africa, heroin from Asia is increasingly being trafficked through Africa to Western markets, and local consumption of psychotropic substances has also emerged as a matter of serious concern in various parts of the continent. African Governments are discovering that, to a surprising degree, drug trafficking networks are being operated by Africans. The drug situation in Africa, which has deteriorated since the 1980s, is posing serious problems in several countries, notably Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria and Zambia.

93. Reported seizures of cannabis in Africa rose from 7.8 tonnes in 1988 to 74.3 tonnes in 1990. Large quantities of heroin from the Middle East and south-east Asia and increasing amounts of cocaine from South America are being transported across Africa on their way to markets in other parts of the world. A considerable amount of psychotropic substances of non-African origin are sent to many African countries.

(b) Programme overview

94. At the end of 1992, over 33 projects were under way at the national level in 25 African countries. In general, UNDCP projects in Africa at the national level have focused on strengthening law enforcement capabilities, with particular emphasis on institution-building and training; however, increasing attention is being given to initiatives in the area of demand reduction. Although

UNDCP has been involved in such activities in Africa in the past, it now foresees an expansion of this work, in line with its strategic priorities. This heightened emphasis on demand reduction activities is evident in new projects in, for example, Egypt, Namibia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

95. Although much of the work of UNDCP in Africa has thus far taken place at the national level, it is at the regional level where drug control efforts must be coordinated in the future. A certain degree of progress has already been achieved in generating the necessary regional responses to Africa's drug problem.

96. In 1992, UNDCP and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) agreed upon a project to provide substantive support to Governments in the region that were pursuing harmonized policies and coordinated plans of action. Through the project, UNDCP provided support for the convening, at Brazzaville in November 1992, of the newly created subregional Technical Committee for Drug Control Activities. The Committee adopted a subregional master plan that will be presented for endorsement at the next Heads of State Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States, scheduled for early 1993. Under the planning and coordination sectoral plan, Governments will progressively launch the formulation of national master plans.

97. In western Africa, initial contacts have been established with representatives of the Economic Community of West African States; it is expected that a subregional initiative similar to that in central Africa will be launched perhaps as early as mid-1993. Thus far, UNDCP has succeeded in developing model legislation for pharmaceutical control and penal codes that are now being considered by Governments in the region. Guinea-Bissau has already upgraded its domestic legislation based on the models, and other countries are at advanced stages of doing so. In addition, a subregional training centre at Abidjan for drug law enforcement officials will become operational in 1993, thanks to a tripartite funding arrangement involving the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Government of France and UNDCP.

98. UNDCP is considering ways to strengthen contacts with countries in eastern Africa, based on arrangements provided by the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa. UNDCP held a workshop at Nairobi in January 1993 that brought together representatives of Governments in eastern and southern Africa and others concerned about the increasing flow of methaqualone from Asia to the region.

2. Asia and the Pacific

(a) Major features and trends in drug abuse

99. Asia remains the world's major source of illicit opium and heroin. Taken together, the "Golden Triangle"* and the "Golden Crescent"** are believed to

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*The area where the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand meet.

**An area comprising parts of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

produce as much as 4,000 tonnes of raw opium per year. Although some source countries have successfully pursued programmes to eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, total production is generally estimated to be higher than it was five years ago. This applies to both subregions, Afghanistan and Myanmar being the principal source countries in their respective subregions.

100. The source countries of opium and heroin, together with their neighbouring countries, are increasingly suffering from domestic drug abuse problems. In south-west Asia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan are especially affected; and in south-east Asia, Malaysia and Thailand have experienced serious abuse problems.

101. Developments in the central Asian members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and in Afghanistan have greatly increased not only the need but also the opportunities for cooperation among the Governments of south-west Asia in confronting the spread of drug abuse. Although the ongoing economic and political flux in central Asia may intensify the challenge for drug control efforts in south-west Asia, it has also contributed to greater recognition of the need for subregional cooperation. Similarly, although the decrease in hostilities in rural areas of Afghanistan has facilitated even more illicit crop production, the prospect of a comprehensive reconstruction programme in Afghanistan supported by the United Nations has markedly upgraded the country's potential to participate in subregional drug control efforts.

102. South-east Asia has been affected in several ways by the economic revitalization taking place in China. A significant expansion in commerce has increased the movement of people and goods. But at the same time, this trend is being exploited by drug traffickers in areas bordering the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, leading to an increase in heroin addiction in those areas. In much of the subregion, opiates are taken intravenously, contributing significantly to the spread of HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

103. The Pacific island countries, because of their size and remoteness, are attractive transit points for drug traffickers, especially as some offer "offshore" banking facilities that are vulnerable to money-laundering. Clandestine amphetamine manufacture has reached major proportions in some Pacific Rim countries.

(b) Programme overview

104. The UNDCP strategy in Asia and the Pacific focuses on (a) subregional and intercountry approaches to reducing illicit drug supply and demand; (b) development and promotion of the national master-plan concept; (c) expansion and consolidation of demand reduction programmes, taking into account the AIDS dimension; and (d) reinforcement and geographical expansion of alternative development efforts through enhanced partnership with other multilateral entities.

105. In 1992, the Governments of China, Myanmar and Thailand, with support from UNDCP, engaged in consultations that in June of that year resulted in the signing of two intercountry agreements. Those agreements involve assistance from UNDCP valued at US$ 7.5 million (for the agreement between China and Myanmar) and US$ 4.5 million (for the agreement between Myanmar and Thailand). Initial activities in all project areas began in 1992. The project goals are (a) to reduce opium production by transforming traditional opium-based

rural economies; (b) to halt illicit heroin-refining operations and heroin trafficking through collaborative law enforcement efforts; and (c) to diminish local opium and heroin consumption, the primary target being ethnic minorities in remote mountainous areas. At the community level and with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, the projects will also focus on the linkage between intravenous drug use and the spread of HIV/AIDS. An essential degree of joint project supervision will be exercised via regular joint executing committee meetings.

106. Progress was made in 1992 in the design of a subregional strategy in south-west Asia. A technical consultation was organized by UNDCP at Islamabad in September of that year. The consultation brought together experts from neighbouring countries, donor countries and relevant international organizations. It provided an opportunity to review external assistance in support of drug control at the country level in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Constructive dialogue involving development and drug control specialists resulted in an agreement to integrate UNDCP concerns into United Nations reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The persistent problems of illicit opium and heroin production, trafficking and abuse in Pakistan were also highlighted at the consultation, together with factors affecting the progress in ongoing alternative development and demand reduction work.

107. In 1992, support to national drug control master plans featured prominently in the work of UNDCP in Asia and the Pacific. Plans in Bangladesh and Nepal have been finalized and follow-up projects will soon begin. Earlier work in Pakistan led to the incorporation of its essential elements of the master-plan in the eighth five-year plan of that country. Comprehensive survey and assessment exercises related to the master plans were in full implementation in 1992 in both the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Steps towards drawing up master plans have been taken in India and Sri Lanka.

108. Among the countries affected by drug trafficking in the region are China, India and Malaysia; all three countries are located close to producing areas and have been experiencing serious drug abuse problems. In the case of China and India, the drug abuse problems have rapidly acquired an HIV/AIDS dimension; in each of those countries UNDCP has continued to support the efforts of the authorities in both demand reduction and the suppression of drug trafficking.

109. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNDCP activities are being expanded in step with the south-east Asian subregional initiative and the national master-plan process. IFAD is the principal co-financier of the national programme in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. IFAD is also providing support to the Xieng Khouang project, which is now under way, and may provide support in the future to a new project in Bokeo/Luang Namtha near the borders with Myanmar and Thailand.

110. In view of the achievements in Thailand over the past 15 years and the growing capacity of the Government to execute projects, the existing alternative development projects have been reshaped to facilitate the transfer of activities to the government budget. That process is expected to be completed by the end of 1994.

111. In response to the interest in drug control recently shown by the Pacific island countries, UNDCP sent a fact-finding mission to that subregion in November and December 1992. Based on the findings of the mission, consideration will be given to the development of a drug control strategy for the Pacific island countries.

3. Latin America

(a) Major features and trends in drug abuse

112. Despite some success with regard to national and international drug control efforts, illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking continued to expand in Latin America as a whole in 1992, fuelled not only by the still heavy demand in North America, but also by the growing demand both within Latin America and in the rapidly expanding European markets.

113. On the production side, two disturbing new trends are the increasing capacity to manufacture coca paste and cocaine hydrochloride in Bolivia and the substantial increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation in Colombia. There are also some indications that such cultivation might be emerging, albeit to a lesser extent, in Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

114. On the demand side, drug abuse has followed production as increasing amounts of cocaine, coca paste derivatives and other drugs are being consumed. With regard to trafficking, both established and emerging cocaine cartels have been strengthening ties with international criminal organizations. Central American countries, together with Brazil, Chile and Venezuela, are being used as transit points for the distribution of cocaine to illicit markets within and outside the region; in several of those countries, money-laundering has developed into a major industry.

(b) Programme overview

115. In 1992, UNDCP focused on supporting national policy formulation and planning, as well as on programme and project management capabilities. These are viewed as essential prerequisites for programme build-up, resource mobilization for follow-up investment, as well as for institutional consolidation of drug control concerns.

116. UNDCP held two seminars in June 1992 and carried out several follow-up missions to assist Andean and Central American countries in the elaboration of national master plans. Government officials from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela participated at the first seminar, which took place at Santa Cruz. Representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama participated in the Central American seminar, which took place at Managua.

117. A follow-up mission to the Central American seminar took place in October 1992. A UNDCP consultant will undertake other follow-up missions to advise Governments on the elaboration of national master plans. The national master plans of most Andean countries are expected to be completed by early 1993. Several Central American countries are expected to finalize their master plans in the course of 1993.

118. In late 1992, UNDCP began to devise a better analytical framework within which it could redefine and consolidate alternative development pilot projects in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, the three principal coca-producing countries in Latin America. As mentioned in paragraph 13 above, the objective is to focus on alternative development projects which, following initial financial support from UNDCP, would best lend themselves to larger-scale follow-up investment by Governments and/or regional and global financial institutions. That objective is already being pursued in Bolivia and Colombia. Preparations are currently

under way for similar consultations on future endeavours involving UNDCP, the World Bank and IDB in other Latin American countries.

119. In 1992, UNDCP intensified its demand reduction activities in Colombia, where a number of new projects have been approved. At the Fourth World Conference of Mayors against Drugs, held at Buenos Aires in June 1992, one project financed by UNDCP at Bogotá was awarded a prize for its outstanding work in the field of drug abuse prevention. In Brazil, efforts continued to refine and apply a rapid intervention method for treatment and rehabilitation. In Bolivia, two new demand reduction projects were initiated, with emphasis on needs of children at high risk; in addition, assistance was provided for the development of a national demand reduction plan.

120. With regard to the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and use of precursors and essential chemicals for the production of coca paste and cocaine, precursor control projects in Bolivia and Colombia were developed. Those two countries were among those that saw a net increase in UNDCP support to strengthen law enforcement infrastructure and those parts of the judiciary systems responsible for the indictment, prosecution and sentencing of drug traffickers.

4. Caribbean

(a) Major features and trends in drug abuse

121. Until recently, the main problem facing the Caribbean region was that it was being used as a transit point for illicit drugs being transported from South America to Europe and North America. Some limited production of cannabis was also taking place in a few countries. In recent years, however, substantial quantities of cannabis and cocaine have appeared on the streets of Caribbean countries. Drug abuse has developed into a major problem in virtually every part of the Caribbean, and its associated crimes (money-laundering, fraud, theft and physical violence) have also become prevalent. Drug-related deaths have increased dramatically. It is anticipated that, within the next two years, significant amounts of heroin will begin to pass through the region, following the same networks as those used for illicit cannabis and cocaine shipments.

(b) Programme overview

122. In 1992, UNDCP sponsored a regional seminar on demand reduction at Barbados, in which project directors and senior policy makers from 18 countries participated. The participants at the seminar, which was held from 16 to 20 May 1992, exchanged experiences and formulated guidelines and strategies for the implementation of their national programmes. Currently, a project to train education personnel from ten eastern Caribbean countries is under way, with the objective to develop a drug education curriculum.

123. In line with current UNDCP policy, 17 countries have already received assistance in formulating master plans. In 1992, demand reduction continued to receive priority: of the 24 ongoing projects with budgets totalling some US$ 10 million, 17 were in the field of drug abuse prevention and 7 were in the field of law enforcement. Sixteen national projects were implemented in 13 countries, and there were eight regional projects.

124. ICPO/Interpol telecommunications network that became operational in 1989 currently covers 30 countries in the Caribbean and in Central America. The

capability of customs administrations to effectively use the CCC Enforcement Training Modules has been strengthened through the Caribbean Customs Drug Interdiction Programme.

125. Under a forensic laboratory project a regional training centre that provides basic training for forensic laboratory personnel was established with UNDCP support at Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in June 1992. Several laboratories in the region have also been strengthened by the provision of equipment and materials and training for chemists, as well as by the promotion of intercountry cooperation.

5. Europe

(a) Major features and trends of drug abuse

126. In Europe, the number of consumers of narcotic drugs, particularly heroin, and psychotropic substances continues to grow. The Balkan route, which today extends the whole of Eastern Europe, acts as a major channel for transporting south-west Asian heroin, which accounts for some 70 per cent of all the heroin seized in Europe. The consumption of amphetamines and home-made poppy straw extract is also emerging as a serious concern. Under such circumstances, Europe's illicit drug problems are both sectorally and geographically diverse, with certain regions facing upsurges in the demand for illicit drugs and others contending with drug trafficking and illicit production.

127. In CIS member States, large areas of wild-growing cannabis represent the main drug-related problem, especially in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation. However, problems related to the illicit drug cultivation in CIS member States are not limited to cannabis; rather, wild as well as cultivated growth of opium poppy is recognized as an aready serious concern, particularly in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, in the central Asian CIS member States and in specific locations such as St. Petersburg, drug abuse is already increasing and is expected to worsen unless coordinated national and international efforts are directed at controlling the situation.

128. On their way to Western Europe, the illicit drugs originating from Asia threaten to convert the central Asian CIS member States and the Caucasus region into major illicit trafficking routes. There are clear indications that traffickers are already well-accustomed to using the region as a channel through which heroin from south-west Asia and from the central Asian CIS member States themselves can pass to lucrative illicit markets in Europe. New routes are being opened through northern Europe, particularly via Poland and Ukraine, as well as the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

(b) Programme overview

129. In view of the steady increase in bilateral drug control assistance to Europe, UNDCP has elaborated a regional coordination mechanism that initially focuses on law enforcement.

130. Based on information gathered during fact-finding missions in April and May 1992 to CIS member States and the Baltic States, UNDCP identified sectors where assistance is needed. In 1992, UNDCP and WHO launched preliminary activities and consulted with officials in the region with a view to formulating demand reduction measures.

131. As another step towards dealing with drug-related problems in CIS member States, UNDCP has provided expert advice on legal development and model legislation to Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

132. In November 1992, UNDCP prepared a project aimed at providing the Baltic States with immediate assistance in the legislative, law enforcement and laboratory sectors in 1993 and 1994.

133. In Eastern Europe, the development of adequate legal systems and appropriate coordination mechanisms is a prerequisite for the establishment and improvement of effective drug control strategies. UNDCP activities in Eastern Europe will also concentrate on strengthening national and regional law enforcement capacities. Those initiatives will be supplemented by the training of law enforcement personnel in key areas and the provision of specialized drug detection and surveillance equipment. UNDCP has also initiated two regional projects for countries along the Balkan route, one involving the training of law enforcement officers and the other involving the establishment or strengthening of laboratory facilities. What is perhaps most important, however, is the need for progress in the development of master plans by individual countries in Eastern Europe and CIS member States.

6. Middle East

(a) Major features and trends in drug abuse

134. Illicit drug trafficking is a concern in all countries in the Middle East. While the needs and financial resources for drug control measures may vary from one country to another, it is clear that assistance will be required to reinforce drug law enforcement structures with training and, when appropriate, logistical support. At the same time, beyond the differing needs of individual countries, coordination at the regional level must be improved.

135. Lebanon remains a major thoroughfare for illicit shipments of heroin and cannabis destined for the Arabian peninsula and Western markets. A vast eradication campaign and the harsh 1991/1992 winter destroyed virtually all illicit opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon; the Government has expressed its commitment to maintaining its welcomed focus on illicit crop eradication.

(b) Programme overview

136. Following a fact-finding mission and an inter-agency needs assessment led by FAO and in line with the outcome of a technical consultation held at Beirut in October 1992, UNDCP formulated an integrated area development programme for the El Beqa'a valley. UNDCP aims to achieve sustainable eradication by providing farmers in the area with alternative sources of income. The first phase of the programme, to be implemented in 1993, will, inter alia, establish the mechanisms and local counterpart structures for a long-term area development programme, create an agricultural credit scheme and provide social and health assistance.

137. UNDCP has also formulated a multisectoral drug control project for Lebanon which foresees the provision of assistance, in 1993 and 1994, in the legal assistance, licit drug control, demand reduction and law enforcement sectors. Under the project, UNDCP will provide advisory services and training to customs, police, drug inspectors of the Ministry of Health, judges and prosecutors. UNDCP will also focus on providing assistance to the Government of Lebanon in formulating a demand reduction strategy.

IV. EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

138. The UNDCP objective with regard to evaluation activities is to provide useful input for management and decision-making at both the programme and project levels. In 1992, UNDCP launched a new evaluation policy and procedure designed to better gauge the impact of its projects and activities. The findings of those evaluations are being incorporated into the planning process for future endeavours.

139. In 1992, 11 external evaluations were completed, covering 20 projects in the Bahamas, Bolivia, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago. Thirteen of the selected projects involved alternative development, two involved demand reduction and five involved law enforcement.

140. In addition to providing project and country-specific information and recommendations, the evaluations enabled UNDCP to identify a number of issues that it should deal with to improve its effectiveness including the following:

(a) Better project design and planning, in particular clarification of drug control objectives;

(b) More emphasis on pre-project feasibility assessment and post-project sustainability and replicability;

(c) Stronger project management, review and monitoring;

(d) Development of a programme approach, particularly in the framework of master plans;

(e) Refinement of the UNDCP approach to alternative development activities.

141. The conclusions and recommendations of those evaluations led to or reinforced the following UNDCP action:

(a) Findings from evaluations have been systematically applied by the Project Review Committee, which was established to conduct a thorough analysis of project proposals and ensure consistency between UNDCP policies and strategies and project objectives and design;

(b) Guidelines for the preparation of project documents have been developed. In addition, draft guidelines have been developed to ensure the sustainability and replicability of methodologies in alternative development projects;

(c) Training in project formulation is being provided to staff at headquarters and in the field;

(d) Plans are being made to revise in 1993 the project review, monitoring and reporting system and to assess the training needs for monitoring and evaluation among staff at headquarters and in the field.

142. In 1993, five programme evaluations will be carried out, focusing on the following:

(a) Reporting obligations and practices to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Laboratory training activities;

(c) Technical cooperation to reduce illicit drug demand;

(d) Alternative development activities in Thailand;

(e) Alternative development activities in the Andean subregion.

143. Also expected in 1993 are eight project evaluations (covering 22 projects) in Afghanistan, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand and Venezuela. Four of the evaluations will cover supply reduction projects, two will involve demand reduction and two will involve law enforcement.

V. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A. Public information activities

144. The Chung Trio, three world renowned musicians from the Republic of Korea, have been nominated Goodwill Ambassadors to promote the worldwide anti-drug campaign of UNDCP. Three benefit concerts were held in 1992: at Seoul on 29 August, at Rome on 20 November and in New York on 2 December. Further benefit concerts are planned for 1993; a percentage of the proceeds will go to UNDCP activities. A private company, the Seoul Broadcasting System, is sponsoring the Goodwill Ambassadors programme and has contributed funds to cover related costs.

145. UNDCP is currently developing a project with the Inter Press Service, a media-related non-governmental organization, to raise the drug awareness of journalists, media workers, and community and non-governmental organization leaders in Latin American countries through a series of workshops and seminars.

146. Late in 1992, AZIMUTHS, the television magazine of UNDP, produced a short documentary on UNDCP activities in Thailand. In addition, an agreement was reached with AZIMUTHS according to which it will produce four television features on UNDCP projects and activities in 1993, to be broadcast in English, French and Spanish in more than 50 countries.

147. UNDCP also issued a number of publications in 1992, ranging from UNDCP general information brochures in various languages to an updated version of The United Nations and Drug Abuse Control, 6/ produced in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat.

B. Fund-raising

148. In 1992, voluntary contributions to UNDCP totalled approximately US$ 71.7 million. Those contributions have been increasing in line with the expanding drug control needs of the international community. Nevertheless, it should be noted that a large share of the financial support to UNDCP has continued to come from a small group of donors. Of the voluntary funds provided to UNDCP, 73 per cent were contributed by only four Governments and one Government alone contributed a full 40 per cent. Further details are presented in a document before the Commission (E/CN.7/1993/5).

Notes

1/ World Bank, "Bolivia: agricultural sector review", report No. 9882-BO, 6 April 1992.

2/ World Bank, "Bolivia: updating economic memorandum", report No. 11123-BO, 8 October 1992.

3/ World Bank, "Peru: agricultural policies for economic efficiency", report No. 10605-PE, 11 September 1992.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

5/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.I.31.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.93.XI.2.